



DEVELOPMENT OF INDIA TOWARDS KNOWLEDGEABLE CULTURE

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ABSTRACT

The Government needs confidence that its research, science and technology investments will be rapidly and effectively exploited to make India a knowledgeable culture. This is more likely where sectors demonstrate their strategic thinking about the future through bold and dynamic innovation strategies and the Government is ready to be a partner in such bold and innovative strategies. Constituted a High Level Task Force for the broad areas of relevance cover Information Technology, Telecom Bio-Technology, Drug Design, Financial Services and Enterprise wide Management, Global Networking, Education requirements for developing a learning Society, Vibrant partnership between Government, industry and institutions, Economic and business strategic alliance built on capabilities and opportunities and setting up of an Education Development Finance Corporation for meeting the needs of deserving students. A focus on the knowledge base behind new and improved products, processes, systems and services will ensure that Government investment in science and technology and other core sectors of economy complements the role of private sector investment in generating wealth for India. This goal links to the Government's aspiration to develop an enterprise economy.

KEYWORDS: Development of India, Knowledgeable Culture, Importance of Education.

INTRODUCTION:

A knowledgeable culture will enable us to leap-frog in finding new and progressive ways to meet the challenges of building a just and honest social order and attempt urgent solutions.

The five point agenda for it includes the following:

- Education for developing a learning society
- Global networking
- Spirited Government-Industry-Academic phenomenon in contract forming and execution.
- Leveraging of existing competencies in IIT, Telecom, Biotechnology, Drug Design, Financial Services, and Enterprise-wide Management.
- Economic and business important bonds built on potentialities and chances.

Experts have predicted a few years ago that this millennium will belong to two big super powers in this region of Asia, and India is one. There is a lot of international awareness on the idea of knowledgeable culture. The knowledge society is a 'work-in-progress' requiring significant investment in harnessing skills, technology and learning. Knowledge society is a society where creating, sharing key factors in the prosperity and using knowledge are and wellbeing of its people.

Some principal features of the knowledge society include:

- Knowledge and information being leading sources of making respects.
- Rapid changes in technology.
- Greater investment in research and development.
- Greater use of information and communication technology
- Growth of knowledge-intensive business
- Increased networking and working together
- Rising skill requirements

This contrasts to earlier societies such as the agricultural society (when agriculture survival) and industrial society (when mass production of goods generated most of the wealth). In the rising knowledgeable culture as much as, if not more than land, labour and capital, knowledge is the primal to creating richness and enriching the quality of life.

Driver:

The idea of the knowledge society has been spreading rapidly around the world. So much so, that it has been described as a 'Knowledge Revolution'. What are

some of the key factors driving this revolution?

- Globalization of the world's economies has fuelled competition and spurred the gathering of knowledge to get ahead.
- The technologies for gaining, sharing and applying knowledge are changing rapidly; for example, the rise of computers and the Internet.
- The growing role of research, science and technology in creating knowledge to solve business, social and environmental problems.
- Knowledge tends to grow at exponential rate. Whereas, the resources of the industrial society, for example fossil fuels, tended only to be used once. However, existing knowledge can be used to create new knowledge. This speeds up the rate at which knowledge is created and grows.

The Knowledge Concepts:

Knowledge: An effective definition is-conversancy acquired by research and experience. It can consider 'know what' (knowledge about concept), 'know why' (scientific knowledge of the rules and concepts), 'know how' (skills or the potentiality to do something), 'know-who' (information about one that knows what and how to perform).

Knowledge Economy: The economy at the heart of a knowledgeable culture, i.e. an economy, which revolves around creating, sharing and using knowledge and information to create wealth and improve the quality of life.

Knowledge Worker: A person who supplies value by giving, sharing or implementing estimates. It can equally apply to an eminent scientist, a skilled craftsman or to a receptionist with an expert knowledge of who's who in the organisation and where all the useful information is.

Knowledge Management: As knowledge becomes more valuable, there is a growing need to manage it effectively to capture its full benefit hence, the rise of this important sub-category of general management. The nation is on the brink of a period of profound change in our society. All that we do, all that we make, and all that we earn will be altered new knowledge and technological change by Knowledge differs from other resources-each new discovery provides a platform for further discoveries.

There is an urgent need for a time bound project exploiting knowledge for our future prosperity and well-being, and our development as a knowledge society. Rather than projecting into the future with assumptions about how today works, the project should involve constructing a vision of a most desirable future, and then identifying strategies to reach there.

The project should provide a framework for thinking about the sort of future India wants, and define the context for the Government's research, Science and Technology investments to make India a super power in the new millennium and a super knowledge society. The Government of India invests substantially in research, science and technology to generate new innovative, economic, environmental and social capacity. In this way, the Government underpins innovation

throughout all sectors. However it cannot work in isolation and innovation must be focused on the needs of end-users whose lives environment and enterprises will be affected by new knowledge and technological change.

Knowledge revolution is leading to knowledge centred trade and industry. There is a dramatic change in international trade, which was once dominated by primary products such as iron ore etc., and now dominated by knowledge intensive goods. It rightly points out that when we buy one Kilogram of steel, 90% of it is material, while if we buy a copy of Windows 98 from Microsoft, more than 95% of it is knowledge.

Direction Setting:

The Government's Science and Technology Departments can think of 'Science Envelope Goals' covering Innovation, Economics, Environment and Social Science, which are all inter-related for making India a Knowledge Society.

This is necessary because of the long-term nature of many science and technology activities. The goals may include planning and strategy to:

- Provide a uniform set of directions across the science envelope, enabling elements of work carried out under different sources of funding to be combined in coherent research portfolios; and
- Act as an anchor point for the performance expectations designed to assess the efficacy of investments in science and technology.

The Goal Statements:

There are four Science Envelope Goals. All the goal statements have a similar structure. They identify the role to be played by science and technology in moving towards a knowledge society. The innovation goal refers to the importance of innovation per se, but also underpins the social, environmental and economic goals.

Innovation Goal:

Accelerate knowledge creation and the development of human capital, social capital, learning systems and networks in order to enhance India's capacity to innovate. The first goal recognises the importance of building a culture of innovation in India to underpin all other economic, environmental and social outcomes. Science and Technology should generate new knowledge, help develop human and network capacities, and stimulate an entrepreneurial culture so that India can be full participant in the global knowledge age.

This goal links directly to the Government's aspirations to create an enterprise economy and to value innovation. It reinforces the Government's expanding the country's strategic priority on knowledge base and technological capabilities.

Economic Goal:

Increase the contribution that knowledge makes to the creation and value of new and improved products, processes, systems and services in order to enhance the competitiveness of Indian enterprises.

The second goal stresses the importance of new knowledge and technological change as a driver for value-creation, innovation, and productivity gains across the economy.

This goal identifies the contribution that knowledge makes to economic competitiveness. It provides a context for Government investment in key areas consistent with the policy that investment should generate widespread net benefits over time, without displacing or otherwise creating disincentives for investment by others.

Environmental Goal:

Increase knowledge of the environment and of the biological, physical, social, economic and cultural factors that affect it in order to establish and maintain a healthy environment that sustains nature and people.

The third goal emphasises how knowledge of environment and processes underpins improve environmental quality and integrity. It picks up ideas related to India's environmental concern expressed in Government's strategic priority biodiversity.

This goal focuses on improving and understanding of the web of interconnected factors that determine the state of the environment. The knowledge gained will underpin sustainable management of India's environments (terrestrial, marine and atmospheric), and will contribute to minimising hazards and risks associated with our unique environments. This will in turn contribute to better economic and social outcomes.

Social Goal:

Enhanced knowledge of the social, biological, environmental, cultural, economic and physical influences of well-being in order to build a culture in which we Indians can relish health and independence and have a feel of comfortableness, identity and concern.

This is perhaps the most important Goal as Knowledge Explosion should try to take the poor majority to decent living levels and ultimately we must work towards an abolition of the 'Poverty Line'.

This fourth goal addresses the social outcomes that can be achieved through science and technology investments. It identifies a key role for science and technology in increasing knowledge about the wide range of factors that underpin social and individual development. Society's 'have-nots' should be attended to first for taking them to reasonable heights.

It also reflects the increasing international recognition that innovation is intimately linked to the social conditions in which it is produced. Thus increasing knowledge of the determinants of well-being provides a platform for developing India's innovative capacity, and opens avenues for improving well-being in its own right. This goal links to the Government's strategic priority on extending economic and social participation of all. Mahatma Gandhi's call 'unto the last' is relevant here.

These four goals strongly influence investment decisions and also provide research, including long-term, cross-portfolio, and applied social science research a context for departmental. In order to make India a 'Knowledgeable Culture', there is a need for a detailed framework which will consist of a lot of sub sets and focus on areas of strategic resource generation, economic indicators etc. Such a framework for a nation-wide network knowledge management has been developed by his Excellency Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Ex-President of India and the then Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, a member of the Knowledge Task Force.

SWOT Analysis:

According to Dr. Kalam, nation's long term economic and security objectives evolved through SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat) analysis provided the basis for this framework and helped to identify different knowledge areas and priorities for knowledge creation and exploitation.

A knowledge society must be inclusive and for that inclusion to be a reality, everyone must have access to participation in the decision-making process. The information and communication infrastructure provides the means for inclusivity because it allows for timely, inexpensive and broad dissemination of information from a multiplicity of sources, to the majority of people. It also allows for immediate assessment and internationalisation of the information that is provided, because of its built-in capacity for interactivity. At the moment, the capacity for interactivity, i.e. the ability to access and exchange information is not universal. For the principle of universality of access to be applied in a way that moves us towards a knowledge society and economy the concept of access must be expanded to include interactive and inclusive participation.

In order to focus the development of knowledge Society in India the first and foremost, the Government should ensure that infrastructure development for knowledge dissemination should be given top priority which will serve the public interest focus on human communication and provide universal access to information.

The Task Force will focus through objectives along the following lines:

- To define shape and communicate public policy issues that relate to the emergence of India's knowledge society;
- To work with disadvantaged groups in their efforts to participate in the knowledge society;
- To develop public awareness programmes
- To research issues related to the knowledge society;
- To work with the creators and developers of knowledge management systems in their efforts to express Indian culture through the information and communication infrastructure;
- To encourage the development of, and link with other groups with related interest;
- To do all such other things which are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects;
- To initiate the production of an annual progress report on India's transformation to knowledge society;
- To create a national forum to engage public debate in discussions pertaining to knowledge society and an exclusive website on India's knowledge society

This approach paper mainly emphasizes the issues involved in making India a Knowledge Society which is the need of the hour.

India heads the developing world in Knowledge database, and even developed

nations like the USA is looking towards us for their software requirements. We have thus everything to make India a Knowledge Super Power India was a Knowledge Force in the ancient days. Let us restore this status to India today.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam said from his future vision “A developed India is not a dream. It need not even be a mere vision in the minds of many Indians. It is a mission we can all take up and succeed”.

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